

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF:TWSEELYE:WLK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF

SUBJECT: CALL BY SOUTH AFRICAN DCM: BICENTENNIAL NAVAL
REVIEW, SAG PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND STATUS OF NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT TRANSACTION

1. ON 19 MAY,

-- JEREMY SHEARAR, MINISTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY,
CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE ON INSTRUCTIONS
HIS GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN OUR VIEWS REGARDING SUBSTANCE AND
TIMING OF STATEMENT SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT MAKE
CONCERNING UPCOMING VISIT OF SOUTH AFRICAN SHIP TO NEW YORK
IN CONNECTION BICENTENNIAL NAVAL REVIEW. SHEARAR SAID THAT
OBVIOUSLY MATTER WOULD SOON COME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION AS
PREPARATIONS FOR VOYAGE COMMENCE AND HIS GOVERNMENT MUST
BE READY TO SAY SOMETHING. IT WISHES TO BE ON SAME WAVE
LENGTH WITH US REGARDING WHAT IT SAYS. SEELYE EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR SAG'S CONSULTING WITH US AND SAID HE
WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH SHEARAR. SUBSEQUENTLY, SEELYE
CALLED SHEARAR TO CONVEY TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S PRESS
GUIDANCE (STATE 121369), AND SUGGESTED THAT SAG MIGHT WISH
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TO FOLLOW SIMILAR LINE. SEELYE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SAG

WOULD CONFINE ITSELF TO RESPONDING TO POSSIBLE QUERIES AND NOT VOLUNTEER STATEMENT IN ADVANCE OF THESE QUERIES.

2. SHEARAR ALSO LEFT TEXTS OF STATEMENTS MADE BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER CONCERNING HIS INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR PERCY AND REMARKS HE MADE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS GROUP REGARDING PRESIDENT FORD'S RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTION ON POSSIBLE MEETING WITH PRIMIN VORSTER. SHEARAR ALSO LEFT TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S TWO RECENT STATEMENTS RE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. SHEARAR COMMENTED THAT PRESS HAD DISTORTED SOME OF THESE STATEMENTS. IN PARTICULAR, HE WISHED TO CLARIFY THAT PRIMIN HAD STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WERE NOT AN INVITATION TO VISIT AND CONSULT WITH HIM; RATHER PRESIDENT FORD HAD MERELY HELD OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSULTATIONS.

3. FINALLY, SHEARAR ASKED FOR LATEST INFORMATION RE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TRANSACTION. SEELYE INDICATED

HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT TRANSACTION AWAITS DUTCH GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL. ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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